



GATEWAY TO THE FUTURE | SOUTH CAPITOL STREET IMPROVEMENTS

FREDERICK DOUGLASS MEMORIAL BRIDGE “EXTREME MAKEOVER” JULY-AUGUST 2007 BRIDGE CLOSURE AND RENOVATION

What is happening?

- The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is embarking on a “complete makeover” of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, to extend its lifespan and viability as a major entrance into Washington, D.C. This “makeover” is the first phase of an initiative to transform the South Capitol Street Corridor into a grand urban boulevard that will improve mobility and access and provide a fitting and beautiful gateway into our nation’s capital.
- Improvements to the Frederick Douglass Bridge have been under study and evaluation since late 2001.

What improvements are being made?

- Currently, the Frederick Douglass Bridge (South Capitol Street) continues on land as an elevated structure approaching I-395 and the U.S. Capitol. As such, it is a major barrier to pedestrian/bike, motorist and commercial access in and around the Anacostia Waterfront area.
- In July and August 2007, approximately 200 feet of the bridge’s northern approach will be lowered by up to 10 feet from its current elevated position to create an at-grade roadway with a new intersection at South Capitol Street and Potomac Avenue.
- Lowering the roadway will provide better and safer access to and from new development and major employment centers that are being built in the surrounding waterfront development. Additionally, the lower bridge and improved streetscape will result in a more attractive profile in the neighborhood.
- Additional improvements will occur such as painting the bridge and putting down new pavement.
- Further enhancements on the bridge and along the South Capitol Street Corridor will occur in the near term, such as new lighting and railings, pedestrian improvements, new and improved utility drainage structures and resurfaced streets.
- A replacement bridge is planned in the next ten years with a world class design that will provide an architectural icon for the area.

When is the near-term bridge lowering scheduled to occur?

- The bridge lowering is scheduled to take place during July/August 2007, with remaining work scheduled to be completed by April 2008, in time for the opening of the new National’s Ballpark, which is currently under construction.

What construction impacts are expected?

- The traveling public will be impacted by this summer’s bridge lowering, specifically residents of Washington D.C. and Maryland and Northern Virginia commuters who travel into downtown D.C. via the Frederick Douglass Bridge.
- During July and August 2007, all lanes on the bridge will be completely shutdown to traffic and pedestrians to allow for the efficient and safe completion of work.

What are the alternate routes to get into D.C.?

- Northbound drivers will follow signed detours to the I-295/11th Street Bridge providing direct access into D.C.
- Southbound drivers will follow signed detours to I-395 South across the 11th Street Bridge to I-295 South into Maryland.
- Drivers also may use New York Avenue or Benning Road.



Why is a 2-month complete bridge closure necessary?

- DDOT's philosophy is to "Get In, Get Out and Stay Out." By having uninterrupted access to the bridge, workers will be able to complete the bridge lowering in a much shorter timeframe. Ultimately, impacts to commuters and adjacent neighborhoods will be shortened and minimized.
- An uninterrupted 2-month work period is expected to improve safety for residents, commuters and workers alike; improve construction quality; and expedite the project's schedule.
- Similar strategies have been successfully deployed on major construction efforts in other large metropolitan areas.

What steps is DDOT taking to minimize impacts to the traveling public?

- Planning work and closures during summer-vacation months of lowest traffic volumes.
- Promoting the use of commute alternatives such as Metro rail and bus service.
- Engaging in a proactive public awareness campaign to keep the traveling public informed of the closures, recommended detour routes and commute alternatives. The "no surprises" awareness campaign is geared toward affected residents and commuters. Information will be disseminated through paid drive-time radio advertisements and extensive outreach to media, major employers and stakeholders.
- Paving an additional travel lane on part of the northbound detour route - the stretch of I-295 between Suitland Parkway and the 11th Street Bridge - to increase capacity and help traffic flow.
- Strategically placing highway message signs listing the bridge closure and alternate routes.
- Quick clearing of traffic-clogging incidents in alternate routes through increased presence of motorist assistance patrols.
- Coordinating with D.C., Maryland and Virginia traffic operation centers and emergency response agencies to monitor traffic conditions and make refinements as necessary.

Commuter Solutions

- To avoid the stress of driving altogether during the bridge closure, drivers are urged to switch out of their cars and into Metro rail, bus service or an organized vanpool. Choosing a commute alternative will be easier through the following coordinated efforts:
 - DDOT's "Bridge Bucks" Program. Modeled after the successful Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project's Bridge Bucks Program, DDOT's Bridge Bucks Program provides \$50 a month to commuters who commit to choosing a commute alternative during the months of July and August. Applicants must go to www.ddot.dc.gov to register for the program and must provide their origin and destination addresses and current, specific commute route.
 - Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) will provide reduced Metrobus rates on Routes A9, P17, P19 and W13 to be effective throughout the July-August bridge closure.
 - WMATA is providing increased rail capacity on the Green Line, by the recent addition of rail cars.
 - Available parking at the Anacostia Metrorail Station to accommodate additional rail riders.

Get the latest details on the Frederick Douglass Bridge closure at:

- www.ddot.dc.gov
- 866-989-DDOT (3368)
- Link to traffic cameras for real-time conditions at trafficland.com and traffic.com
- 1650 AM radio near the Frederick Douglass Bridge
- Roadway signs

